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B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A computer implemented method of claim 37 further comprising:

obtaining, at a third party logging server, a plurality of digital works from a plurality of provider computer systems;

storing the received digital works on a nonvolatile storage device accessible from the third party logging server;

receiving, at the third party logging server, a product sale request from a merchant computer system, wherein the product sale request is received over a computer network;

transmitting, from the third party logging server through the computer network to the merchant computer system, one or more of the digital works, wherein the merchant computer system is adapted to provide the transmitted digital works to one or more customer computer systems;

recording, at the third party logging server, a sales record corresponding to the product sale request; and

registering a merchant corresponding to the merchant computer system with the third party logging server, the registration including an agreement with the merchant regarding use of the digital works and payment for receipt of the digital works, wherein the registration occurs before the receiving, transmitting, and recording.

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39. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 38 further comprising:
providing the merchant computer system with an authentication mechanism in response to the registration of the merchant; and
authenticating the merchant computer system using the authentication mechanism prior to the transmission of digital works to the merchant computer system from the third party logging server.
40. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 38 further comprising:
sending a plug-in software module for installation on the merchant computer system, the plug-in software module adapted to notify the third party logging server whenever a customer purchases one of the digital works from the merchant computer system; and
receiving, from the merchant computer system, a notification that one or more of the digital works has been purchased from the merchant computer system, wherein the recording of the sales record corresponding to the product sale request is performed in response to receiving the notification.
41. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 40 wherein the notification is sent to the third party logging server over the computer network by the plug-in software module installed at the merchant computer system.
42. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 40 wherein the notification includes one or more digital work identifiers that correspond to the digital works that

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have been purchased from the merchant computer system and a merchant identifier that identifies the merchant.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 42 wherein the recording further comprises:
- identifying a royalty rate corresponding to the digital work identifiers;
 - calculating a purchase amount based upon the royalty rate;
 - and
 - including the purchase amount in the sales record.
44. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 43 further comprising:
- preparing a billing statement that includes the sales record; and
 - providing the billing statement to the merchant.
45. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 44 further comprising:
- for each of the provider computer systems, registering a provider corresponding to the provider computer system with the third party logging server, the registration including an agreement with the provider regarding use of the digital works and payment for use of the digital works by merchants, wherein the registration occurs before the obtaining and the storing.
46. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 45 further comprising:
- identifying a set of one or more providers from the plurality of providers from which the digital works sold by the merchant were obtained;

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determining a royalty amount for each of the identified providers;
preparing a royalty statement to the identified providers, the royalty statement including the royalty amount;
and
electronically sending the royalty statements and funds corresponding to the royalty amounts to the providers.

47. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim [[37]] 38 further comprising:

sending the product sale request from the merchant computer system to the third party logging server in response to a customer requesting to purchase the digital works from the merchant computer system;
receiving, at the merchant computer system, the digital works transmitted from the third party logging server;
and
transmitting the received digital works from the merchant computer system to the customer computer system after the merchant computer system has received the digital works.

48. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim [[37]] 38 further comprising:

receiving, from one or more of the providers a royalty rate corresponding to one or more of the digital works;
calculating an amount due from the merchant based upon the royalty rate of the digital works transmitted to the merchant computer system; and
billing the merchant the amount due.

49. (Cancelled)

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50. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An information handling system ~~of claim 49 further~~ comprising:

one or more processors;

a memory accessible by the processors;

a network interface connecting the information handling system to a computer network;

a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the processors;
and

a logging tool, the logging tool including:

means for obtaining, at the information handling system, a plurality of digital works from a plurality of provider computer systems;

means for storing the received digital works on the nonvolatile storage device;

means for receiving, at the information handling system, a product sale request from a merchant computer system, wherein the product sale request is received over a computer;

means for transmitting, from the information handling system through the computer network to the merchant computer system, one or more of the digital works, wherein the merchant computer system is adapted to provide the transmitted digital works to one or more customer computer systems;

means for recording, on the nonvolatile storage device, a sales record corresponding to the product sale request; and

means for registering a merchant corresponding to the merchant computer system with the information handling system, the registration including an

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agreement with the merchant regarding use of the digital works and payment for receipt of the digital works, wherein the registration occurs before the performance of the means for receiving, the means for transmitting, and the means for recording.

51. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 50 further comprising:

means for providing the merchant computer system with an authentication mechanism in response to the registration of the merchant; and

means for authenticating the merchant computer system using the authentication mechanism prior to the transmission of digital works to the merchant computer system from the information handling system.

52. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 50 further comprising:

means for sending a plug-in software module for installation on the merchant computer system, the plug-in software module adapted to notify the information handling system whenever a customer purchases one of the digital works from the merchant computer system; and

means for receiving, from the merchant computer system, a notification that one or more of the digital works has been purchased from the merchant computer system, wherein the means for recording of the sales record corresponding to the product sale request is performed in response to receiving the notification.

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53. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 52 wherein the notification is sent to the third party logging server over the computer network by the plug-in software module installed at the merchant computer system.
54. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 52 wherein the notification includes one or more digital work identifiers that correspond to the digital works that have been purchased from the merchant computer system and a merchant identifier that identifies the merchant.
55. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 54 wherein the means for recording further comprises:
means for identifying a royalty rate corresponding to the digital work identifiers;
means for calculating a purchase amount based upon the royalty rate; and
means for including the purchase amount in the sales record.
56. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 55 further comprising:
means for preparing a billing statement that includes the sales record; and
means for providing the billing statement to the merchant.
57. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 56 further comprising:
for each of the provider computer systems, means for registering a provider corresponding to the provider computer system with the information handling system, the registration including an agreement with the provider regarding use of the digital works and

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payment for use of the digital works by merchants,
wherein the registration occurs before the performance
of the means for obtaining and the means for storing.

58. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of
claim 57 further comprising:

means for identifying a set of one or more providers from
the plurality of providers from which the digital
works sold by the merchant were obtained;
means for determining a royalty amount for each of the
identified providers;
means for preparing a royalty statement to the identified
providers, the royalty statement including the royalty
amount; and
means for electronically sending the royalty statements and
funds corresponding to the royalty amounts to the
providers.

59. (Currently Amended) The information handling system of
claim [[49]] 50 further comprising:

means for sending the product sale request from the
merchant computer system to the information handling
system in response to a customer requesting to
purchase the digital works from the merchant computer
system;
means for receiving, at the merchant computer system, the
digital works transmitted from the information
handling system; and
means for transmitting the received digital works from the
merchant computer system to the customer computer
system after the merchant computer system has received
the digital works.

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60. (Currently Amended) The information handling system of claim ~~[[49]]~~ 50 further comprising:

means for receiving, from one or more of the providers a royalty rate corresponding to one or more of the digital works;

means for calculating an amount due from the merchant based upon the royalty rate of the digital works transmitted to the merchant computer system; and

means for billing the merchant the amount due.

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A computer program product of claim ~~61~~ further stored on a computer operable medium comprising:

means for obtaining, at a third party logging server, a plurality of digital works from a plurality of provider computer systems;

means for storing the received digital works on a nonvolatile storage device accessible from the third party logging server;

means for receiving, at the third party logging server, a product sale request from a merchant computer system, wherein the product sale request is received over a computer network;

means for transmitting, from the third party logging server through the computer network to the merchant computer system, one or more of the digital works, wherein the merchant computer system is adapted to provide the transmitted digital works to one or more customer computer systems;

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means for recording, at the third party logging server, a sales record corresponding to the product sale request; and

means for means for registering a merchant corresponding to the merchant computer system with the third party logging server, the registration including an agreement with the merchant regarding use of the digital works and payment for receipt of the digital works, wherein the registration occurs before the means for receiving, the means for transmitting, and the means for recording.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 62 further comprising:

means for providing the merchant computer system with an authentication mechanism in response to the registration of the merchant; and

means for authenticating the merchant computer system using the authentication mechanism prior to the transmission of digital works to the merchant computer system from the third party logging server.

64. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 62 further comprising:

means for sending a plug-in software module for installation on the merchant computer system, the plug-in software module adapted to notify the third party logging server whenever a customer purchases one of the digital works from the merchant computer system; and

means for receiving, from the merchant computer system, a notification that one or more of the digital works has

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been purchased from the merchant computer system, wherein the means for recording of the sales record corresponding to the product sale request is performed in response to receiving the notification.

65. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 64 wherein the notification is sent to the third party logging server over the computer network by the plug-in software module installed at the merchant computer system.
66. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 64 wherein the notification includes one or more digital work identifiers that correspond to the digital works that have been purchased from the merchant computer system and a merchant identifier that identifies the merchant.
67. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 66 wherein the means for recording further comprises:
means for identifying a royalty rate corresponding to the digital work identifiers;
means for calculating a purchase amount based upon the royalty rate; and
means for including the purchase amount in the sales record.
68. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 67 further comprising:
preparing a billing statement that includes the sales record; and
providing the billing statement to the merchant.
69. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 68 further comprising:

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for each of the provider computer systems, means for registering a provider corresponding to the provider computer system with the third party logging server, the registration including an agreement with the provider regarding use of the digital works and payment for use of the digital works by merchants, wherein the registration occurs before the performance of the means for obtaining and the means for storing.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69 further comprising:

means for identifying a set of one or more providers from the plurality of providers from which the digital works sold by the merchant were obtained;

means for determining a royalty amount for each of the identified providers;

means for preparing a royalty statement to the identified providers, the royalty statement including the royalty amount; and

means for electronically sending the royalty statements and funds corresponding to the royalty amounts to the providers.

71. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim [[61]] 62 further comprising:

means for sending the product sale request from the merchant computer system to the third party logging server in response to a customer requesting to purchase the digital works from the merchant computer system;

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means for receiving, at the merchant computer system, the digital works transmitted from the third party logging server; and

means for transmitting the received digital works from the merchant computer system to the customer computer system after the merchant computer system has received the digital works.

72. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim [[61]] 62 further comprising:

means for receiving, from one or more of the providers a royalty rate corresponding to one or more of the digital works;

means for calculating an amount due from the merchant based upon the royalty rate of the digital works transmitted to the merchant computer system; and

means for billing the merchant the amount due.